

CLAIMS

1. A method of identifying symbols in a portable electronic device comprising: a screen, a contact surface in the screen area covering at least part of the screen area, and a contact area for symbol creation located in the contact surface area, the method comprising:
 - 5 detecting the start of a symbol creation function;
 - enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation after the start of the symbol creation function;
 - interpreting a symbol created in the enlarged contact area for sym-
 - 10 bol creation.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising detecting the start of the symbol creation function based on a touch in the contact area for symbol creation.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising
 - 15 detecting the start of the symbol creation function based on a start signal given with a signalling device.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation in the screen area by at least 25 percent.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising
 - 20 detecting the fulfilment of an end condition and interpreting the symbol created in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation once the fulfilment of the end condition is detected.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the symbol creation
 - 25 function end condition being fulfilled when an end command is detected.
7. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the symbol creation function end condition being fulfilled when no touch is detected in the contact area for symbol creation within a given time.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising
 - 30 giving a signal at the start of the symbol creation function.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, the method further comprising giving said signal for indicating the location of the enlarged contact area for symbol creation in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation.
- 10 A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said signal is a light,
 - 35 voice or vibration signal.
11. A method as claimed in claim 8, the method further comprising

interrupting the signalling if the touch moves outside the enlarged contact area for symbol creation.

12. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said symbol is one or more letters, digits, images or a combination thereof including two or more symbols.

13. A portable electronic device comprising: a screen, a contact surface in the screen area covering at least part of the screen area, and a contact area for symbol creation located in the contact surface area, the device comprising means for:

10 detecting the start of a symbol creation function;
 enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation after the start of the symbol creation function;
 interpreting a symbol created in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation.

15 14. A device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising means for detecting the start of the symbol creation function based on a touch in the contact area for symbol creation.

15 15. A device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising means for detecting the start of the symbol creation function based on a start signal given
 20 with a signalling device.

16. A device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the means for enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation are configured to enlarge the size of the contact area based on control given by a touch screen or other user interface comprised by the device.

25 17. A device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the means for enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation are configured to enlarge the size of the contact area for symbol creation in the screen area by at least 25 percent.

30 18. A device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising means for detecting the fulfilment of an end condition and for interpreting the symbol created in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation once the fulfilment of the end condition is detected.

35 19. A device as claimed in claim 18, further comprising means for detecting an end command and for detecting the fulfilment of the end condition based on the detection of the end command.

20. A device as claimed in claim 18, further comprising means for

detecting the fulfilment of the end condition when no touch is detected in the contact area for symbol creation within a given time.

21. A device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising means for giving a signal at the start of the symbol creation function.

5 22. A device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising means for giving said signal in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation for indicating the location of the enlarged contact area for symbol creation.

23. A device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said signal is a light, voice or vibration signal.

10 24. A device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising means for interrupting the signalling if the touch moves outside the enlarged contact area for symbol creation.

25. A device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said symbol is one or more letters, digits, images or a combination thereof including two or more
15 symbols.

26. A device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the portable electronic device is a mobile station.

27. A device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the portable electronic device is a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) device or a portable computer.

20 28. A device as claimed in claim 27, further comprising means for establishing a telecommunication connection.

29. A device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the telecommunication connection is a connection to be implemented in a mobile network.

25 30. A device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the telecommunication connection is an Internet connection.

31. A device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the telecommunication connection is a short-range wireless connection.

32. A device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the short-range wireless connection is a Bluetooth, infrared or WLAN connection.

30